

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 19, 2004
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Commercial Vehicle Stop Uncovers Illegal Alcohol

On March 17, 2004, at approximately 10:20 a.m., Trooper William Ashcraft with the Washington State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Division (CVD) stopped a moving van northbound on I -5 at the Nisqually Scale to conduct an inspection of the driver's log book and other credentials.

A review of the log book indicated several violations that were serious enough to place the vehicle out of service, which means the driver can no longer operate the vehicle. The trooper also inspected the shipping papers, which indicated the driver was carrying a load of furniture from California. The trooper estimated that the driver was hauling approximately \$1,000.00 worth of furniture, and felt this was suspicious and did not warrant a trip from California.

Ashcraft was assisted by Trooper Darrin Whalen who also examined the paperwork and agreed that the circumstances appeared suspicious.

The troopers obtained the driver's consent to search the vehicle and discovered 40 cases of untaxed alcohol, which originated out of California. The driver said he bought the alcohol in California and was taking it to a restaurant in Redmond.

Officers from the state Liquor Control Board were called to the scene. The Liquor Control Officers seized all 40 cases and estimated the alcohol would retail for more than \$50,000.

The driver was cited at the scene for log book violations, and for bringing alcohol across state lines.

The case was turned over to Liquor Control Board for further follow-up and investigation.

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